



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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TAC Minutes, 06/08/2011

Town of Arlington

Transportation Advisory Committee

Minutes of 6/8/11, 7:15 pm to 9:30 pm, Town Hall Annex, Second Floor Conf. Room.

Minutes submitted by Laura Wiener.

Members and Associates Present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Wayne Chouinard, Jeff Maxtutis, Howard Muese, Corey Rateau, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, Rich Turcotte, Laura Wiener.

Missing Members and Associates: Jean Clark, John Lentz, Andy Machado, Steve Kurland,

Visitors Present: Grant Cook, Orvis Road.

- Public Comments. Grant Cook, 39 Orvis Road, asked TAC to look at traffic congestion on Orvis Road, especially during morning rush hour. TAC directed him to send request to Selectmen.
- Administration.
 - Minutes of 5/11/11 were approved unanimously.
 - Correspondence and other handouts were reviewed.
- Biannual Election of Officers. The following officers were elected unanimously:
 - Co-chairs—Jeff Maxtutis and Howard Muese
 - Vice Chair—Ed Starr
 - Secretary—Laura Wiener
- TAC 10th Anniversary—it was noted that this month marks the 10th anniversary of TAC's first meeting, June 11, 2001. Cake and ice cream were served to celebrate.
- Schools.
 - Hardy. Thompson School 3rd and 4th graders will be going to Hardy during Thompson School rebuild. Recent meeting was held with Hardy and Thompson parents to encourage walking and biking to school, and discourage additional driving. A secondary drop-off area will be created.
 - Stratton. Younger Thompson students will be going to Stratton. Drop off strategies are being explored, for school bus and parents.
- Route 77 Bus Improvements. Laura reported that the MBTA received ARRA funding to improve the top 15 bus routes, of which #77 is one. MBTA is proposing some consolidation of stops, addition of benches, trash receptacles, and possible bus signal priority at traffic signals. Public meeting is scheduled for June 9.
- Mass. Ave. Corridor. Tony, Jeff, Wayne and Scott have been meeting with FST to address concerns about queue length at Linwood signal. Progress is being made. Laura and Mike are working with FST and Waterfield on landscape and streetscape plan, and plan to have something to show the Review Committee

this summer, followed by meetings with the businesses.

- Grafton Street. An assessment has been done in response to request via Selectmen for traffic calming. Grafton Street runs from Mass. Ave. toward Broadway. Average speed is 21 mph, 85th percentile is 28 mph. Less than 100 cars during peak hour. Recommendation that no action is warranted. Voted unanimously. Ed will send a memo to Selectmen.

2011 Thermoplastic List. Distributed and reviewed.

CLAMP. Contract signed with Howard/Stein-Hudson. Design work has begun.

- Downing Square. Elisabeth reported that a productive meeting occurred with BSC engineers, businesses and neighbors to review design. Parallel parking on Lowell St. was endorsed by Police. Final plan is anticipated next month.
- CVS. Crosswalk assembly signs are up at the new CVS. Wayne will check on signs. Warning markings are needed at curb extensions.
- Mass/Water. Traffic counters are in place to collect data prior to changes. Publicity has begun and will continue with Advocate, postings at the Library, Post Office, UU church, and the Town website. Temporary signs announcing change will be placed on the streets. Changes will take place on July 15. TAC will repeat measurements in 4 months.
- Mass/Park signal timing. Wayne will look for timing diagram from BSC.
- Thorndike Field Wayfinding. Directions were sent to Arlington Soccer Club to post on website. Signs appear to be installed, though might need one more sign at the end of Birch to enter field. Howard will check.
- Crossing Guards. Existing staffing levels maintained with override. Elisabeth suggested looking at plan from last year to make sure it is still optimal, taking into consideration temporary closing of Thompson.
- Adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Meeting Materials:

- Ed's meeting packet: Agenda, 6/8/11; Email from Margaret Ferris to Ed Starr Re. Bow Street Traffic, dated May 9, 2011; Email from Eric Fitch to Ed Starr Re. Traffic Inquiry, dated May 17, 2011; Active/Planned TAC Projects and Working Groups, dated 6/8/11; Status of Outstanding Actions, 6/8/11; BoS/ARB Project Status, 6/8/11; Members of Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee, 6/27/02; Decision Criteria, 2/24/2004; Transportation Advisory Committee, Reports, Recommendations and Guidelines; Arlington Advocate Editorial, January 11, 2007, "TAC displays its importance again".
- Minutes of 4/13/11;
- Grafton Street, Arlington TAC Meeting, June 8, 2011;
- Downing Square Improvements, January, 2011;
- Thermoplastic Crosswalks, June 8, 2011;
- Memo from Wayne Chouinard Re. Additional Agenda Items, dated June 8, 2011;
- Arlington Police Department Traffic Data, 18 Court St., 24 Russell St., 5 Water St., 18 Water St., dated 5/20/11.